



School Newsletter

Monday 27th February

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back!

RAPS has always prided itself on the development of both pupils and its staff, and over time we have seen staff leave and take on promotions or follow different avenues in their working lives. I'm sure you would all like to join me in congratulating Mrs Beech on her new appointment as Regional Lead Practitioner for The Kemnal Academies Trust. This is a role that will see Mrs Beech working across a much larger trust, focusing on school improvement, which is an area that she is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about. Her last day at RAPS will be Friday 31st March, the last day of term, and we will all be extremely sad to see her go and thank her for all she has done for RAPS and the Viking Trust. Sadly, we will also have to say goodbye at the end of Term 4 to Mrs Smith, one of our Year 2 TAs, and also Mr O'Neil who is going back to America to work over the summer and will hopefully be coming back next year! Thank you and good luck!

We have never been very good at standing still at RAPS as we always strive to continually evolve to have the best team possible for your children. The next couple of months are certainly the next stage of the evolution of RAPS, with new staff joining to complement and add capacity to our already amazing team. Miss Tranham is coming back as a class teacher in Reception, and Mrs Chidwick-Day, an experienced Early Years practitioner, will be joining in Term 5 as Assistant Head of the Early Years. Mrs Hughes will be joining RAPS full-time as Special Educational Needs Leader, and Ms Elliott is taking on a role that will see her working in partnership with Mrs Hughes as Designated Safeguarding, Mental Health and Wellbeing lead. We have also appointed a new Deputy Head teacher, Mr Holliday, who is moving with his family to Thanet and will also be starting in Term 5. Exciting times ahead!

I thought I would also share our admissions numbers for our 2023-2024 Reception spaces, this is always a nerve-wracking time of year for schools, as filling sixty places for Reception each year is vital for a school's survival and for them to afford to do those extra things that we all have come to expect (especially at RAPS!). Basically, each child that fills a place in school comes with an amount of money allocated to them to help pay for wages, resources, and enrichment - like our Arts curriculum. If Reception places aren't full, then schools cannot afford to do the things they want to do. This year, we were thrilled that RAPS had 224 1st, 2nd and 3rd applications for Reception places,

Dates for your diary

Week beginning
27/02-Oracy
Week

28/02-Parent
Oracy workshops

Yr6 -Trip to
Turner

1/03 -Non School
Uniform for
Dahlia's Big
Haircut-
Donations
welcome

2/03-Strike Day

3/03-Moon Lane
Books in School

Yr 6 Bikability

09/03-Yr3 Magic
Show

13/06-Yr6
Ramsgate
Tunnels

17/03-Yr3 Earth
Matters
Workshops

17/03-RAPS
Speaker final

with 91 first choices. This means we could have filled three Reception classes! This has surpassed our greatest expectations and has exceeded the applications of many of the more-established schools in the local area. We are sure that this is down to our amazing teaching team and curriculum but also down to you, our parents and carers, having faith in the school and supporting us to become the best school we can be. We will continue to get better and better.

Thank you

Oracy Week

This week we are holding our first RAPS Oracy Week. Although we always focus on developing effective communication, we have decided to hold a special week which celebrates oracy, as we know that talk is the gateway to self-expression, collaboration, and success.

During the week we have a range of workshops running across the school. Among these you'll find rap workshops, radio presenting, debate, presentation, improvisation, oral storytelling and storytelling through songs...and more. In class throughout this week, lessons will include even more opportunities for talk and learning through oracy; keep an eye on your child's blog for updates on the interesting lessons going on!

We also have our annual Speaker Competition being prepared during oracy week. For this, children will spend time preparing a short speech around a topic area. They'll have the chance to perform this to their class. Each class will then put forward a representative to perform in front of the school. Winning school speakers will go on to present again at a Trust-wide event.

Finally, I'd like to invite you to a workshop about oracy at RAPS. See the flyer for details about the event and how to book your place. I'd love for you to hear about the amazing things we are doing in classes to promote excellent talk. I hope to see you there!

Many thanks,

Mrs Beech



The flyer is for a parent workshop at Ramsgate Arts Primary School. It features a blue background with white and yellow text. At the top left is a circular logo with a stylized 'R' and the school's name. The main title 'ORACY PARENT WORKSHOP!' is in large, bold, white letters with a yellow outline. Below this is a section titled 'WORKSHOP INFO' with an information icon. The workshop details are listed: Date (Tuesday 28th February), Time (8.40-9.20AM OR 2.20-3pm), Location (Sign in at main office), and a note to confirm booking at the school office. On the right, a speech bubble icon introduces a list of four bullet points about the workshop's goals: learning about oracy, hearing about the school's mission, exploring ways to support communication at home, and having a chance to share ideas and ask questions.

RAMSGATE ARTS PRIMARY SCHOOL'S

ORACY PARENT WORKSHOP!

WORKSHOP INFO

Date: Tuesday 28th February
Time: 8.40-9.20AM OR 2.20-3pm
Location: Sign in at main office.
Confirm at school office to book your place.

Come along to the oracy workshop to-

- Learn about what oracy is and why it is so important for your child.
- Hear about our mission to elevate children's voices in the classroom at RAPS.
- Explore ways to support your child with their communication at home, setting them up for great success as they grow up.
- Have a chance to share ideas and ask questions.

Strike Action

You will be aware from both media coverage and following the previous strike day on 1st February 2023 that the NEU strike action will be continuing next month. This will cause disruption at Ramsgate Arts Primary School on Thursday 2nd March 2023, Wednesday 15th March 2023 and Thursday 16th March 2023.

You will be aware that, as a school, we have been looking at a variety of options, however, due to the significant proportion of staff who belong to the NEU and took strike action last time, I have no option again but to make alternative arrangements for the children's learning at RAPS and subsequently, the school will be closed to children on Thursday 2nd March 2023.

Sadly, this action also falls during our Oracy Week and on World Book Day, the action will not affect the many fantastic workshops that we have planned throughout the week but will mean that we won't have a dress up day on World Book Day as we have in the past.

Online learning will be provided through the school website <https://www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk/support-materials-for-parents>. Parents will find a variety of links to websites such as GoNoodle, Duolingo, BBC TEACH and many more that will support the learning during this day. Information about the topics that the children are learning for this term have already been posted through the class blogs, MCAS notifications or can be found here: <https://www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk/your-class>

For those children who are registered for free school meals, we will be providing vouchers through the EVouchers system.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your children at short notice and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that the situation may be very frustrating and that there are a range of views held across our community regarding the current circumstances. However, once again we find ourselves in a very difficult situation and the school remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering a high-quality education.



Dalia's Big Hair Cut

Dalia will donate her hair to Little Princess Trust on the 1st of March. Help her raise enough money to cover the cost of the wig making.



Donate today
bit.ly/DaliaPT